

MONDAY, JULY 2, 2007

pulse



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A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER FOR PHYSICIANS, EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS FOCUSING ON THE HOSPITAL'S MISSION OF PROVIDING QUALITY CARE AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE TO THOSE WE SERVE

Pharmacy improves med safety

LMH's Pharmacy Department recently implemented several changes to improve the safety of administering drugs in emergent situations. Magnesium sulfate 5gm syringes were replaced with magnesium sulfate 1gm vials according to recommendations from the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) to avoid unintentional overdoses. Vasopressin was added to the crash carts in compliance with ACLS guidelines. In addition, the IV-solution tray in crash carts was updated to include 50ml and 100ml bags of dextrose 5 percent and sodium chloride 0.9 percent to facilitate the immediate dilution and administration of ACLS drugs in emergent situations, (*Sandy Atwater, ext. 7555*).

Bike parking expanded

An additional bike rack has been installed next to the soon-to-be-former smoking shelter on the north side of the hospital near where folks enter and exit the dining and emergency rooms. Another bike rack is located near the facilities-management offices. The new bike rack was installed to make it even more convenient for those who wish to bike to work. The staff of facilities management would be thrilled to add even more bike racks if there is a need for them. With the current construction of the central plant, and construction on the South Wing that is slated to begin later this year, the more staffers riding bikes and freeing up parking spots for patients, the better. And then there are the health benefits of biking... LMH is eager to provide a bike-safety class for employees if there is an interest, (*Tak Saito, ext. 7680*).

Encyclopedias, yes; romances, no

LMH's Medical Library recently received a donation from medical interpreter Antonio Gomez of a five-volume set of the Gale Encyclopedia of Medicine, which provides detailed information on approximately 1,750 topics in language that is easily understood by the lay user. If you are in the area, come take a look. The medical librarian is still registering staff for the online-research tool MDConsult. Those interested should come by to register. The patient/family-paperback library could use additional donations, so please check at home for books you are finished with. Remember, no Harlequin romances, please, (*Andrea Morais, ext. 7567*).

CARE Club helps staffers in crisis

The LMH CARE Club is an all-employee committee, founded in 2003, whose focus is to assist LMH employees in times of crisis through voluntary or in-kind donations. From January through June, the CARE Club was able to assist four out of seven applicants seeking assistance in crisis situations. So far this year CARE Club has received \$8,000 in donations (\$4,000 of which came from LMH employees), and a total of \$4,792 has been disbursed to those in need. If you have, or someone you know has, an emergent need, pick up an application in Human Resources or find it on the LMH network at L:\Forms\Human Resources\Care Club Application.doc. Complete and return it to Mark Wallace, Human Resources, or Lori Horan, Community Development. The form is simple to fill out and is kept strictly confidential. A committee of LMH employees meets, reviews applications and determines if or how the CARE Club can help. The committee meets on an as-needed basis and requires a one-year commitment. Many thanks to those who contribute their time and talents to the CARE Club committee. Those interested in becoming involved should contact Lori Horan, ext. 7590, for more information, (*Mark Wallace, ext. 7444*).

Meal cards now re-loadable

Many LMHers have asked about continuing payroll deduction for meal cards in the LMH dining room. The paper-meal cards have been replaced with re-loadable meal cards through the dining-room-cash register (LMH East only). At this time, the new Digital Dining system does not have the capability to use payroll deduction for purchases of meal cards. Credit and debit cards are accepted to purchase meal cards. The paper-meal cards were eliminated for purchase via payroll deduction through Human Resources on July 1. The West Campus will continue to use the paper meal cards that may be purchased with cash or checks only, (*Rebecca Olvera, ext. 7597*).

Clinics admin shows off new space

Clinics administration, clinic billing and LRHS billing will host an open house Thurs., July 12, 2-4p, 1300 W. Lodi Ave., Ste. S. Come see the new offices and enjoy the refreshments, (*Pam Schneider, 642-4477*).



Send "Pulse" items to Community Development

Hands down, washing 'em prevents

Hand hygiene remains the main focus for infection prevention at LMH. JCAHO requires 100-percent compliance with the CDC's hand-hygiene guidelines. Clinical observations are still in progress. LMH's overall compliance rate is still falling short of target, and everyone's help is needed to bring it up. Nurses and doctors wash, on average, only 30 percent of the time required between patient contacts and procedures. Each year, more than 2.4 million hospital-acquired infections occur in the US alone. These infections cause 30,000 deaths and contribute to another 70,000 deaths each year. Health-care-associated infections can cost more than \$30,000 per incident and account for \$45 billion annually in extended care and treatment. We can change these statistics for this hospital. I would like to challenge each of you to take a look at your practices over the next week and focus on opportunities that you could have, or should have, washed your hands or used the alcohol-based hand foam. Then, imagine that every time you missed an opportunity to do hand hygiene, you infected one of your family members with a deadly bacteria – an infection that could have been prevented with something as simple as hand hygiene. Please follow these guidelines and prevent this from happening to our patients and their family members. Remember – infection prevention is in your hands.

How should you wash or disinfect your hands?

- When washing hands with soap and water, wet hands with water and apply soap. Rub hands vigorously for at least 15 seconds, covering all areas of hands and fingers, including fingernails. Rinse hands with water and dry them with a disposable towel. Use that towel to turn off the faucet. Avoid using hot water, as repeated exposure may increase the risk of dermatitis.
- When using an alcohol-based hand rub, apply the hand rub to one palm, and rub hands together, making sure to cover all areas of hands and fingers until they are completely dry, including fingernails, (Schyerle Beal, ext. 7521).

Education, IT staffers "pay it forward"

Recently, staff members from the Education and Information Technology departments gathered supplies to fill 40 personal-hygiene kits. These kits were donated to the Lodi Community Service Center for children who attended summer camp at Silver Lake at the end of June. Each kit contained trial-sized soap, shampoo, tooth brush and paste, sunscreen and chapstick. Small items to purchase, but a big gift for the kids, (Donna Schulz, ext. 7609).

Way to go, Denise

LMHer Denise Jeremic has graduated from the Delta College School of Nursing and has been accepted into the LMH Versant Program. Denise, who is ready to take the NCLEX exam, has worked in the LMH Medical Records Department since April of 1998. Congratulations to Denise, from all of her coworkers, for her hard work and perseverance, (Nancy Moran, ext. 7531).

LMHer wins county-wide raffle

LMH congratulates transporter Daniel Glover for winning the "Bike-to-Work" raffle. As the winner, he will receive a new bicycle and helmet from the San Joaquin Council of Governments. Many thanks to everyone who participated in Bike-to-Work Week. Out of the 83 entries for the San Joaquin County drawing, 26 were LMH employees, (Sarah Beasley, ext. 7616).

Fan mail

A recent LMH patient writes: *Just a note to extend "kudos" to the nursing staff at Lodi Memorial Hospital. My stay at Lodi Memorial was luckily short – one night – but my encounters with the nursing staff in both the emergency room and later after being admitted to a room upstairs was a pleasant experience. Recently I had also been to the hospital for an outpatient procedure, and once again the nurses were nothing but pleasant. During a time when you're dealing with a situation you don't really wish to be in, and having to be in the last place you want to be, it really helps to have such nice, upbeat and very helpful people there for you. Thanks, Lodi nurses – you're great!*

Best place to work?

Here's a quick survey for you; check the response that most closely resembles your thinking:

LMH is the best place I've ever worked:

Not at all ___; Kind of ___; Without doubt ___; It's exceptional ___

If you answered "not at all" or "kind of," what was it about your other place/s of employment that you liked more than LMH:

If you answered "without doubt" or "it's exceptional," what is it about LMH that works for you:

Cut on the dotted line and return to Community Development.